

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject patent application are respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 9, 11, 17, 20 and 23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 103(a) as allegedly being "obvious" by Norimoto (U.S. Patent No. 6,820,001) and Ito et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,944,768). While not acquiescing in this rejection, claims 1, 9 and 11 have been amended and conforming amendments have been made to claims 15, 18 and 21. The discussion below makes reference to the amended claims.

Claim 1 is for a navigation apparatus including a memory device, a transfer device and a delete device. The transfer device "*interrupts transferring set block map data when the portable recording medium is removed from the reading device during the route guidance and the route guidance device performs the route guidance based on the block map data stored in the memory device prior to the interrupting of the transferring*". "[*W*hen the portable recording medium is mounted on the reading device again after the removing thereof, the delete device determines whether there is block map data stored in the memory device that is to be deleted and then deletes any such block map data, and the transfer device transfers set block map data based on a route to the destination from the current position of the moving body acquired when the portable recording medium is mounted again.]" The operation of the delete device is based, by way of example without limitation, on steps S23, S24 and S25 in Figure 10 and the accompanying description at pages 32 and 33.

Neither Norimoto nor Ito et al. discloses a navigation apparatus including a delete device as claimed. In particular, while Ito et al. describes replacement of one CD-ROM with another (see, e.g., column 4, lines 38-53), there is no disclosure in Ito et al. of determining whether there is block map data to be deleted and then deleting any such block map data when a portable recording medium is mounted on a reading device again after the removing thereof. Norimoto is likewise deficient in this regard and thus the proposed combination of Norimoto and Ito et al. cannot possibly provide this feature.

Claims 9 and 11 are directed to a method and a recording medium, respectively, that include subject matter similar to that specified by the above-italicized portion of claim 1.

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Consequently, these claims and their dependent claims are not made obvious by the proposed combination of Norimoto and Ito et al.

Katayama et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,324,471) and Nimura et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,125,323) are applied in connection with certain dependent claims. These references do not remedy the deficiencies of Norimoto and Ito et al.

Katayama et al. discloses a process for retrieving map data based on a "retrieval width" and there is no disclosure of deleting block map data as claimed. Nimura et al. discloses deleting links having "the oldest travel date-and-hour data and small numbers of times of running" when the free region of a data storage unit is too small. See Nimura et al., column 39, lines 6-20. However, there is no disclosure in Nimura et al. that deleting occurs when a portable recording medium is mounted on a reading device again after the removing thereof.

For at least these reasons, claims 1-3, 9-15, 17, 18, 20, 21 and 23 are believed to patentably distinguish over the applied references.

New claims 24-29 have been added. These added claims depend from claims 1, 9 and 11 and are believed to be allowable at least because of this dependency.

The pending claims are believed to be allowable for at least these reasons and favorable office action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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